



HAMATEUR CHATTER



One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol. 15 No. 1 - January, 2007

FM SIMPLEX CONTEST - FEB. 11

On a Sunday afternoon in February for the past couple of years, I have gotten on the air to make a few FM contacts. Not through a repeater, but on FM simplex. Why? To participate in my favorite contest of the year, the MRAC FM Simplex Contest.

Why It is my favorite contest? It's simple to get into. Any Ham can participate; you can make contacts with only an HT and a rubber duck antenna. If you only have a mobile rig in the car, you can have fun from there. It's just a couple hours, and even if you have never been in a VHF contest before, it's easy to make a contact. All you have to know is your own location (grid square). It's only a two, hour contest, so it doesn't take a lot of time. You can make contacts on one band or all four.

Here are some tips for people who haven't participated before:

1) Programming the contest frequencies into your radio

ahead of time will help you find activity.

2) Know your grid square.

3) If you don't copy the other station the first, time ask again. They want the contact as much as you do! And finally

4) Have fun!

I would be happy to help anyone who has questions about the contest. Feel free to catch me at a meeting, on the air or via email at:

joe@jvschwarz.com

I haven't decided how I will participate this year, either mobile operating from several grid squares, or from home with the base rigs. But, one thing is for sure, I'll be on the air!

Contest information is listed here in the 'Chatter, and all the details are on the club website.

73, and hope to hear you on the air this February!

Joe
N9UX

Contest rules and entry form
can be found on pg. 3 & 4

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P.O. Box 070695

Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695
or w9rh@arrrl.net

CQ Contest!!!

CQ CONTEST!!!

CQ contest!!!

CQ CONTEST!!!

CQ CONTEST!!!

MILWAUKEE WI

NETS HEARD IN THE MILWAUKEE AREA

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY			
Daily	6:00-8:00 AM	14.2900	Milwaukee / Florida (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130- ARRL voice news
Daily	5:15-6:00 AM	3.9850	Wisconsin SSB net	Wed.	9:00 PM	145.130- MAARS Swapnet
Daily	7:30 AM	144.1550	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)	Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+ Weather & Swap Net
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net	Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160 6 m. SSB Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.8650-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)	Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910- Computer Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.4450	Emergency Net	Fri. 8:00 PM 28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)	
Mon.	8:45 PM	147.1650	ARRL voice news (ARES)	Fri. 9:00 PM 145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10 mtr. net	
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sat	9:00 PM	146.910- Saturday Night Fun Net
Mon.	9:00 PM	147.1650	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)	Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985 QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.1600	6 m. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net	Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565 X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.2500	Badger Contesters (SSB)	Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800 FM-38 link to 146.88 Baraboo Swapnet
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.1600	6 m. SSB Net	Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365 MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	MKE Guardian chptr 10-10 net	Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910- Information Net
				Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910- Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600 KHz -- 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 meters and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club), a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are \$17.⁰⁰ per year and run on a calendar year starting January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when Christmas dinner takes the place of a regular meeting.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Breakfast at Maxim's

11/24/06



Photo of all present at Maxim's Restaurant for our regular Saturday morning breakfast, except for the photographer, Ted Stiller, WA9RDI.

For details, tune in to our nets on Friday night on 10 meters and/or 2 meters. See pg. 6 of this issue.

CREDITS

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

KA9OFA WA9RDI W9RYA
KF9PU N9UX

Our thanks also goes to:

Rita Doneis, Hal Newton, , and Tom Fuszard, for proofreading the 'Chatter this month.

Thanks also to Dick Wood,



for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter and to Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Mark Tellier and Tom Fuszard who manage our VEC.

Thank YOU!

MRAC FM SIMPLEX CONTEST

This Contest, the afternoon of **Sunday, February 11, 2007**, is sponsored by The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club – which has been continuously meeting for more than 90 years. The purpose of this contest is to encourage amateurs to learn the basics of contesting and simplex operations and expand the scope of their VHF-UHF operating techniques beyond that needed for repeater operation.

1. This event is a sprint, lasting 2 hours from 2 PM to 4 PM CST, with all bands running simultaneously during the designated time frame. Contacts are limited to FM simplex on the 2 meter, 70 centimeter, 6 meter and 1.25 meter amateur bands.
2. Contest frequencies: In order to encourage mobile activity from different grid squares, all bands will run concurrently over the 2 hour duration of the contest. Contestants are also allowed to solicit a station contacted, to move from one band to another as long as it is to one of the frequencies listed below. Contest frequencies correspond to recommendations in the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters band plan.
 - A. 2 meters (Primary 146.550, 146.565, 146.580 and 146.595 MHz)
(Secondary 147.540 147.555 147.570 and 147.585 MHz)
 - B. 70 centimeters (Primary 446.025, 446.050, 446.075 and 446.100 MHz)
(Secondary 446.125, 446.150, 446.175, 446.200 MHz)
 - C. 6 meters (Primary 52.530, 52.550, 52.570 and 52.590 MHz)
(Secondary 52.730, 52.750, 52.770, 52.790 MHz) or (50.3 to 50.6 MHz horizontally polarized antennas)
 - D. 1.25 meters (223.520, 223.540, 223.560 and 223.580 MHz)
3. Frequencies essentially follow the ARRL VHF Contest rules and Wisconsin Association of Repeaters' band plans.
 - A. On 2 meters no contacts on the 146.52 calling frequency, or the guard channels 15 KHz above and below '52. (Using the Wisconsin Band Plan's 30 KHz spacing and 15 KHz splits). Any entry from a station heard making QSO's on these frequencies will be disqualified. Try to limit activity to the primary frequencies.
 - B. As a matter of courtesy and good amateur practice, avoid the other calling frequencies of 52.525, 223.500 and 446.000 MHz.
 - C. Solicitation for simplex contacts on repeaters, but not 146.52, is permitted.

4. Exchange – Call Sign and four character Maidenhead Grid square.

5. Scoring:

- A. Each QSO on 2 meters would be worth one point. 70 centimeter and 6 meter QSO's would be worth two points and 1.25 meter QSO's three points.
 - B. A station can be worked once per band. A mobile station could be worked more than once per band if it moves to a different grid square.
 - C. Each grid square can be used once per band as a multiplier.
 - D. Score would be calculated by multiplying total QSO points by total multipliers.
 - E. Technicians would multiply their final score by 1.5 for a bonus.
6. There would be Four entry classifications:
 - A. BASE - less than 150 watts on 6 and 2 meters and less than 100 watts on 1.25 and 0.70 meters. (ARRL classification of low power for V-UHF contests using common solid-state amplifiers.)
 - B. MOBILE- must work from a minimum of two grid squares and power levels same as those specified for the BASE station classification.
 - C. HT's- (not mobile units run at reduced power) - non-amplified, using any type of antenna, mobile or fixed operation (to encourage innovation and creativity).
 - D. CLUBS- compete by having their members note their affiliation when they send in an entry. The winning club is recognized on a plaque at AES Milwaukee.
 7. Awards - Second and third place awards are at the committee's discretion.
 - A. First in each of the four entry classifications. (Four possible)
 - B. High score in individual band and in each classification where significant activity exists. (Eight possible)
 8. All entries will include a copy of their contest log showing the following data for each QSO: "Band - Local time - Call sign of station worked - Grid Square". An entry should state number of QSO's, QSO points, grid square multipliers by band, claimed total score and a copy of the contest log. If indicated, note the club you are assigning your score to. Entries should be sent in by March 8, 2007.

HINTS FOR THE NON-CONTESTER - NEW CONTESTER

1. If you take advantage of the rule that permits solicitation of contacts on a repeater, be sure to specify the frequency you are moving to -- and confirm that it is not in use. This would prevent someone from automatically moving to a calling frequency. Use the secondary frequencies on two meters for this purpose if a primary is not available. Check first!
2. Shut off PL's and Tone Squelch (Encode - Decode).
3. The Maidenhead Grid Square is the most common multiplier in VHF/UHF contests, and is more important than states. In the Milwaukee area, a stations relationship to the intersection of Lincoln and 70th Street is the key (Intersection of 4 grids listed below). Stations can also look up their grid square on the QRZ Web Site (if you are near a "square" boundary that source may not be accurate). In relation to that intersection:
 - A. Northwest quadrant is EN53
 - B. Southwest quadrant is EN52
 - C. Northeast quadrant is EN63
 - D. Southeast quadrant is EN62

Also contacts with other grids are welcomed and will count as additional multipliers.

4. Most contests have a specific log sheet available, which can be downloaded from the Internet. Check out the forms available for the ARRL VHF Contests. Here is an example of a satisfactory format for logging and scoring ...

Freq	Time	Station Worked	New Grid	Grid Grids	QSO Multiplier	Points
2 mtrs	1:48	N8AUJ	EN53	EN53	1	1
	2:10	K9QNUM	EN53	EN53	1	1
	2:17	K9QNUM	EN63	EN63	1	1
70 cm	2:35	N8AUJ	EN53	EN53	1	2
	2:45	KB9Q	EN52	EN52	1	2
6 mtrs	3:05	N8AUJ	EN53	EN53	1	2
	3:15	KB9Q	EN52	EN52	1	2
	3:20	K9QNU	EN53	EN53	1	2
1.25 m	3:40	K9QNU	EN53	EN53	1	3
	3:45	N8AUJ	EN53	EN53	1	3
	3:50	KB9Q	EN52	EN52	1	3
TOTALS					8	22

EXAMPLE SCORE = 8 x 22 = 176

THE MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS' CLUB FM SIMPLEX CONTEST ENTRY FORM

SUBMIT WITH LOG BY MARCH 8, 2007 TO
MRAC, P.O. BOX 070695, MILWAUKEE, WI 53207-0695

CLAIMED SCORE _____

NAME _____

CLASSIFICATION (Check only one): BASE _____ MOBILE _____ HT _____

CALL SIGN _____ LICENSE CLASS _____ GRID SQUARE(S) _____

(MOBILES: LIST ALL GRIDS ACTIVATED - A STATION CAN BE WORKED MORE THAN ONCE IF YOU THEY ARE IN A DIFFERENT GRID SQUARE EACH TIME)

ADDRESS _____

EMAIL _____ PHONE _____

CLUB AFFILIATION _____

CONTACTS

BAND	QSO'S	Q-PTS	POINTS	GRID SQUARES
2 m	_____	x 1 =	_____	_____
70 cm	_____	x 2 =	_____	_____
6 m	_____	x 2 =	_____	_____
1.25 m	_____	x 3 =	_____	_____

TOTALS _____ x _____

SCORE EQUALS TOTAL POINTS TIMES TOTAL GRIDS

TECHNICIANS, MULTIPLY BY 1.5.

TRANSFER FINAL TOTAL TO 'CLAIMED SCORE' BLANK AT TOP OF PAGE.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTAND AND HAVE FOLLOWED THE PUBLISHED RULES FOR THIS CONTEST. I HAVE OPERATED WITHIN THE LEGAL LIMITS OF MY AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE.

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Membership Application - 2007

Date _____ Membership ☐ Renewal ☐ New Member

Name _____ Callsign _____

Spouse or Family Member name _____ Callsign _____

1st Address _____

2nd Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone Contact Number _____ Home Cell Office Other

Do you wish to receive the club newsletter via email? ☐ Yes ☐ No

E-mail address _____

Member License Class

☐ None ☐ Novice ☐ Technician ☐ Technician Plus ☐ General ☐ Advanced ☐ Extra

Spouse or Family Member License Class

☐ None ☐ Novice ☐ Technician ☐ Technician Plus ☐ General ☐ Advanced ☐ Extra

Membership Type (check only one)

☐ Regular \$17.00 ☐ Family \$17.00 ☐ Associate \$17.00

☐ Life w/Chatter \$10.00 (minimum to cover the Chatter costs)

Do you use the club repeater? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Are you a member of the ARRL? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Comments: _____

Enclose a check for the appropriate amount and mail it to the address above.

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31

Received from _____ Date _____

The Sum of _____ Dollars Cash/Check # _____

For Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club Dues 2007

Signed

AMATEUR RADIO

Amateur Radio is the means of communication with others on equal terms, of finding friendship, adventure and prestige while seated at one's own fireside. In picking his human contacts out of the air the amateur is not seen by them. He is not known by the clothes he wears but by the signals he emits. He enters a new world whose qualifications for success are within his reach. There are no century-old class prejudices to impede his progress. He enters a thoroughly democratic world where rises or falls by his own efforts. When he is W9XYZ, a beginner, the radio elders help him willingly, and when he becomes W9XYZ, the record-breaker and efficient traffic-handler, he willingly helps the younger generation. Without a pedigree, a chauffeur, or an old master decorating his living room he can become a prince—of the air. At the close of the day, filled with the monotony of our routine of the machine age, he can find adventure, vicarious travel, prestige and friendship by throwing on the switch and pounding his signals into the air.

Dr. Raymond V. Bowers,
Yale University

JANUARY PROGRAM

Our program for the January meeting of MRAC has been canceled.

BUT, we found that Mr. Ted Stiller, WA9RDI, has been cleaning his basement, and has lots of older test equipment, mostly kits that he will show for your entertainment and possibly astonishment.

Don't miss this program.
It could be shocking !!!

CW



CW (Morse Code) may not be a test requirement any longer for a license, but that does not mean that it's going away. It just means that instead of having to learn it, we will learn it by choice.

CW is the most basic, least expensive, and easiest mode of communication in HAM radio. It will probably get through in spite of conditions, not just because of them.

As an example: a couple of weeks ago during our Friday night 10 meter net, we were unable to hear/read what WB9PTC was saying on USB. He switched to CW and he was readable. Some of us were unable to decipher what he was saying, but only because our CW capability wasn't good enough (too fast for some like me to read). But he did get through with CW but not with SSB.

There have been stories told about people in a hospital bed being able to communicate with others through the use of Morse code even when almost completely paralyzed (unable to speak), tapping out messages on a bed frame. Also, there are stories of prisoners being able to communicate with each other (by tapping on prison walls) or with the media (blinking their eyes) in spite of not being allowed to talk to each other using CW.

So, **never give up on CW / Morse code.** It could be useful to you, in spite of being a little bit (or a lot) of work to learn.

DEADLINE

The **deadline** for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the **7th day of each month.** You may contact me by e-mail at my new e-address:

adoneis@wi.rr.com or by
snail-mail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208
or by phone at:
(414) 344-4694

REMINDERS

Please check into our nets on Friday evenings.

Our ten meter SSB net is at **8:00 p.m.** at **28.490 MHz \pm 5 KHz USB.**

Our two meter FM net follows at 9:00 p.m. on our repeater at **145.390 MHz**, minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at **Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr.** We usually meet at around 8:00 a.m., and order around 8:15 a.m. The food and the company are good and you don't have to be a member of the club to join us.

Don't forget our **OTA (Over The Air) CW** classes and practice on our W9RH repeater at 145.39 MHz with a PL of 127.3Hz.

The classes are currently on Mondays at 6:00 p.m. for beginners and Friday at 6:00 p.m. for more advanced CW taught by Buck, K9RYW, and Bob, W9CYI.

When he can, Dick, WB9PTC, will also teach beginners on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. All classes last about an hour.

Please, check in and give them some feedback so they will know how they are doing.

CQ Third Tuesday

Come to CQ Third Tuesday at:

Old Country Buffet

16750 West Bluemound Rd.

Brookfield, WI

This gathering of HAMS meets on the third Tuesday of every month.

We start arriving there at 11:00 a.m. and leave when we're full and/or all talked out.

**All HAMS are invited
to ALL events.**

EVENTS

Mid-Winter HamFest *

Wheaton Community Radio Amateurs

January 28, 2007

DuPage Expo

St. Charles, IL

T/I on 145.390 (PL 103.5)

<http://www.wheatonhamfest.org>

MRAC Membership Meeting

Thu. - Jan. 25, 2007

see last page of 'Chatter

MRAC FM Simplex Contest

Sun. - Feb. 11, 2007

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

See details elsewhere in 'Chatter

or online at:

www.w9rh.org



Sterling Rock Falls ARS

Sun. - Mar. 11, 2007

Chailand Middle School

Sterling, IL

T/I on 146.85 (PL 114.8)

<http://www.sterlinghamfest.com>

16th Annual Equipment Auction

Eau Claire ARC

Sat. - March 17, 2007

Grace Lutheran Church

Eau Claire, WI

T/I on 146.91 (PL 110.9)

www.ecarc.org/auction07.htm

Midwinter Madness 2007

Robbinsdale ARC

Sat. - March 24, 2007

Buffalo Civic Center

Buffalo, MN

T/I on 147.600/147.00 rprr

email: k0ltc@k0ltc.org

<http://www.k0ltc.org>

AES SuperFest 2007 *

VE testing on Sat. only

Fri. & Sat. - March 30-31, 2007

Amateur Electronic Supply (AES)

Milwaukee, WI

www.aesham.com

* indicates VE testing
is available.

VE News By Tom, KF9PU

Seven candidates visited our session on Nov. 25. Six were successful in either upgrading or earning a new license. Two other individuals stopped by to request upgrades from old (pre-March 1987) Technician Class to General Class.

VEs who assisted during this session included:

Naomi Potash KC9GSS
Ken Eggert W9MOT
Bernie Golownia AA9CI
Hal Newton KB9OZN
Mark Tellier AB9CD
Ken Hahn WK9H
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA



Thanks to some recent rulemaking and the WARAC Swapfest, we had a good turnout for our test session on Jan. 6. Of the 37 applicants who visited us, 13 walked away with new or upgraded licenses. Many others chose to take the General Class exam in advance of the code requirement going away. That is expected to occur in a month or so.

VEs who assisted during this session include:

Ken Hahn WK9H
Nels Harvey WA9JOB
Kent Christiansen N9WH
Ken Lyman AA7KL
Bernard Golownia AA9CI
Mark Tellier AB9CD
Pancho Doneis KA9OFA
Tom Czaja KG9EE
Gary Payne N9VE

Our next session will be held at
AES on Jan. 27.

EXAM SCHEDULE BY TOM FUSZARD, KF9PU

MRAC VEC

Exam Schedule

Winter and Spring 2006

Sat., Jan. 27 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., Feb. 24 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., Mar. 3 8:30 a.m. @ AES Superfest

Sat., Apr. 28 9:30 a.m. @ AES

Sat., May 26 9:30 a.m. @ AES

AES = Amateur Electronic Supply

5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Here is a scheduled of the VE Test Sessions in
Janesville, Wisconsin for the year of 2007:

January 20, 2007

April 21, 2007

July 21, 2007

October 20, 2007

The time and location is listed on the ARRL
Listed Test Sessions or on my N9FRY call page
under QRZ.COM.

The next meeting of MRAC
will be **Thursday, Jan. 25, 2006**
at **7:00 p.m.**

Redemption Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall

4057 N. Mayfair Rd.

(Use the south entrance)

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

**Our Repeater,
Talk it up.
145.390- MHz
(127.3 Hz PL)**

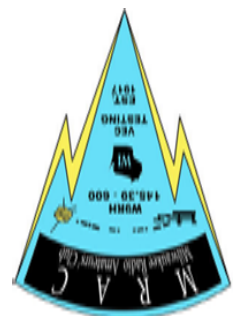
**Dues 'r Due.
Let's Dues
it!!**

See page 6 for details on

This Month's Program.

Visit our new website at: **www.w9rh.org**

Our phone **(414) 332-MRAC**
332-6 7 2 2



M.R.A.C.
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club
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First Class